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PLD 405

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC KVP Bereitschaft Hohenstuecken

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1 1. Prior to 27 July 1953, KVP Bereitschaft Hohenstuecken was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. The unit had the following organization and strength:

| | Officers | NCOs | EM |
|------------------------------|----------|------|-----|
| Bereitschaft headquarters | 70 | 8 | 12 |
| Supply company | 35 | 20 | 40 |
| Motor transport company | 8 | 50 | 20 |
| Headquarters platoon | 1 | | 14 |
| Medical platoon | 1 | 20 | 5 |
| Military band | | 25 | |
| Driving school | 2 | | 60 |
| S-1 (reconnaissance) company | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| S-2 (signal) company | 7 | 5 | 25 |
| S-3 (engineer) company | 8 | 5 | 25 |
| S-5 (AAA) battery | 8 | 25 | 45 |
| S-7 (tank) company | 12 | 20 | 100 |
| First Kommando | 65 | 30 | 90 |
| Second Kommando | 70 | 17 | 66 |
| Third Kommando | 51 | 18 | 42 |
| SB Abteilung | 11 | 15 | 55 |

The EM personnel includes about 25 female KVP, but excluded were the about 60 officers, 80 NCOs and 40 EM scheduled for discharge, by 1 August 1953. It was mentioned among officers that new replacements were due to arrive after 1 August. The three infantry Kommandos were organized into two battalions each, with the second Kommando consisting of the first battalion with 10 officers, 14 NCOs and 66 EM, and the second battalion with 50 officers, 2 NCOs and no EM. The first battalion only consisted of a headquarters with 5 officers and a first company with 5 officers, 14 NCOs and 66 EM. The authorized strength of the infantry Kommandos was to include a signal platoon, an engineer platoon, an AT artillery platoon, a motor vehicle platoon and three infantry battalions. The infantry battalions were to include a heavy mortar platoon and three infantry companies.

25X1 2. The following officers

Lieutenant General Heinz Hoffmann director of training, with the Ministry of the Interior

Major General Rudolf Doelling FK officer

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Major General Scheffler (fnu) | chief of staff |
| Colonel Krueger (fnu) | commanding officer of Bereitschaft |
| Major Prossens (fnu) | deputy PK |
| Captain Schamberger (fnu) | deputy |
| Major Tittel (fnu) | chief of staff and PKK |
| Lieutenant Colonel Koppe (fnu) | deputy B and SED secretary |
| Captain Junge (fnu) | deputy C |
| Senior Lieutenant Heinold (fnu) | deputy D-2 |
| Senior Lieutenant Westphal (fnu) | deputy S-2 |
| Major Hoffmann (fnu) | deputy supply |
| Major Herzer (fnu) | SSD officer |
| Senior Lieutenant Wunderlich | commanding officer of first Kommando |
| Captain Max Sens | commanding officer of second Kommando |
| Senior Lieutenant Bartschek (fnu) | commanding officer of third Kommando |

Four Soviet advisors, including chief advisor Lieutenant Colonel Grushnikov (fnu) and three other lieutenant colonels assigned to B unit, C unit and the PK section were attached to the Bereitschaft.

3. The AA battery was equipped with 2 x 37-mm guns and 4 heavy machine guns. The tank company was equipped with 3 T-34/85 tanks and 5 SU-76 guns. Other weapons observed included 3 old howitzers, 3 Soviet 85-mm AT guns, 32 Soviet 57-mm AT guns, 3 x 122-mm heavy mortars and 5 medium 82-mm mortars. The assignment of these weapons could not be determined.
4. Motor vehicles belonging to the unit included 90 H-3-A trucks; 30 ZIS trucks; 16 G-5 trucks, 1 radio truck, 5 ambulances, 2 jeeps, 1 tank truck with trailer, 1 workshop truck (belonging to the tank company); 1 heavy tank chassis as ammunition carrier; 20 BMW sedans; 2 EMW sedans; 8 DKW sedans; 25 BMW and AWO motorcycles; and 5 AWO motorcycles with sidecars.
5. Training manuals for the unit included manual DV-AT/52, General Tactics; DV-AS/52, Ballistics; and DV-A/51, Basic Training (with Annex).
6. The unit included 10 percent of the 1927 through 1929 classes, 20 percent of the 1930 through 1932 classes; and 70 percent of the 1933 through 1936 classes. Sixty percent came from Saxony-Anhalt, 15 percent from Saxony, 15 percent from Mecklenburg, and 10 percent from Brandenburg and Berlin. Twenty percent of the personnel were reliable Communists, and 80 percent opposed to the regime. While previously the History of the Russian Communist Party and Teachings of Marx and Engels were stressed in political indoctrination, Lenin's book "Was Tum?" has since recently been given priority. However, no change in the course of political indoctrination was noticed after 17 June 1953.
7. The Bereitschaft could be alerted in three stages. In case of alert stage 3, the officer on duty of each Kommando had to open a special alert order kept in a glass box.
8. After about early July 1953, the units had to turn in efficiency reports to the Bereitschaft for soldiers proposed for discharge. To be discharged were personnel with more than two punishments, personnel that were openly opposed to the regime and showed bad discipline, sick personnel and, especially, personnel that were in their fourth year of service. All discharges were bade farwell in the club by

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the chief of staff on 27 July, with the chief of staff transmitting the thanks of the Ministry of the Interior. He further stated that each dischargee would be registered for emergency in his home town, in case the Western imperialists should make a surprise attack. The dischargees numbered 60 officers, 80 NCOs and 40 EM who included an estimated 40 percent discharged because of punishments, 25 percent because of hostility toward the regime, 30 percent discharged because of poor discipline and 5 percent discharged because of sickness. Organized into groups and accompanied by officers of the Bereitschaft, the dischargees marched to the registration office in Brandenburg where they were issued their discharge papers. They passed a room where recruiting agents of the work police of the Walz und Stahlwerk, water police, Kreis police headquarters Brandenburg and Brandenburg prison were waiting. The discharge process of the Bereitschaft was to be completed by 1 August 1953.

9. The Hohenstuecken installation was alerted on 17 June, whereupon the units marched toward Brandenburg at about 1:30 p.m. S-1 and S-2 units remained as guard details, at the installation. About 35 trucks and 20 motorcycles maintained connection between the installation and the Kreis police office. Each of the trucks carried about 25 soldiers who occupied the Walz und Stahlwerke, the Kreis police headquarters, the SED Kreis headquarters, the FDJ club, the prison, Brandenburg main railroad and freight stations, and the railroad stations at Goerden, Altstadt and Krakauer Tor. About 40 percent of the troops committed returned to their quarters on 18 June, the remainder about 20 June. A new commitment was prepared on 21 June. The Einsatz Kommando left for Berlin on 37 trucks, 5 motorcycles, 2 sedans, 1 ambulance and 2 field kitchens. It first proceeded to Adlershof and then to Nfller-schoeneweide where, the individual platoons of the unit occupied positions including position No 85. The unit returned about 15 July 1953.

- 25X1 10. [] a second course for KVP instructors was scheduled to run at the installation in Hohenstuecken from 28 July to 31 August 1953. The first course was attended by about 120 SED functionaries from the Soviet Zone of Germany who came from a party school. The participants, all of them former German Army soldiers averaging about 40 years of age, were promoted to the rank of sergeants or master sergeants/the beginning of the course.

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- 25X1 [] Comment. The information is confirmed by various [] statements made in June 1953. The discharge quota amounts to about 13 percent. The structure of the Bereitschaft remained that of a division, although it had the strength of a cadre unit, i.e. 1,250 men.

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